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20.—*A Commentary, Critical, Expository, and Practical, on the Gospel of Luke, for the Use of Ministers, Theological Students, Private Christians, Bible Classes, and Sabbath Schools.* By JOHN J. OWEN, D. D. New York: Leavitt and Allen. 1859. 12mo. pp. 400.

ON the appearance of Dr. Owen's previous volume, we expressed our high appreciation of his learning, skill, and impartiality as a critic. That estimate is fully sustained by the Commentary on Luke. We are particularly pleased with the adaptation of the work equally to the use of the Biblical scholar and the needs of the merely English reader. No important critical question is ignored or slighted; and yet there is not a sentence beyond the comprehension of an intelligent and thoughtful child. Equally admirable is the union of the critical and practical purposes, which a popular commentary should subserve at the same time. There is no formal array of inferences, no admixture of the sermon element; but the whole exposition is so interpenetrated and vitalized by the spirit of the sacred record, that the reader is never suffered to forget that he is on ground for unshod feet. The volume contains some interpretations from which we might express our dissent, but none which seem to us untenable from the author's point of view, or unsupported by grounds which he was at full liberty, as a critic and a theologian, to maintain.

21.—*Compendium of the Impending Crisis of the South.* By HINTON ROWAN HELPER, of North Carolina. New York: A. B. Burdick. 1859. 12mo. pp. 214.

WE took up this volume with very great interest, on learning that the author was a native of the South, and a slaveholder's son; for we felt that he, from his peculiar position, might obtain a candid hearing in behalf of human freedom from those who would be deaf to a Northern voice. But we confess ourselves disappointed. The book is self-neutralizing. It embodies strong arguments against slavery with precisely the kind of rhetoric which will render them unavailing where they are needed. The economical bearing and results of slave labor, as compared with free labor, are here exhibited with an amplitude and precision which we have not seen approached elsewhere. In addition to a very able and thorough verbal statement of the whole case at issue, we have a series of tables, in which the numerical statistics of the free and the slave States—bushels, pounds, and dollars—are collated from confessedly authentic, and for the most part official, sources of information. On such a subject, arguments based on figures rightfully hold a second place only to those urged on moral and religious grounds,